

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10 as indicated below:

1. (Currently amended) A control mechanism for a rotary hand tool having a generally cylindrical housing in which a drive motor is located, the housing having a generally tapered nose portion at an end from which a motor output shaft extends and a grip portion around which an operator can wrap a hand during operation of the tool and within which portion the motor is housed, said control mechanism being a part of the tool and located substantially within the housing thereof and comprising:

an electrical control circuit contained entirely within said housing, said circuit controlling the application of power to and the operation of the motor, including supplying current to the motor; and

a light touch electrical switch having at least two electrical switch contacts that are configured to be placed in at least a first position wherein said electrical switch contacts are closed circuited and a second position wherein said electrical switch contacts are open circuited, said electrical switch being coupled to said electrical control circuit for selectively enabling or disabling said control circuit to turn the motor on and off, wherein said motor current does not flow through said electrical switch contacts when said switch contacts are in either said first or second positions;

wherein said electrical switch is disposed on the tapered nose portion of the rotary hand tool such that an operator can actuate said electrical switch without altering the operator's grip on the tool.

2. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said switch is configured to be generally rectangular.

3. (Currently amended) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said electrical switch has a predetermined thickness.

4. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein said first position disables said electrical control circuit and said second position enables said electrical control circuit.

5. (Currently amended) The control mechanism of claim 1 wherein the tapered nose portion on which said electrical switch is disposed generally corresponds to a location of the operator's index finger when grasping the tool.

6. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a layer of flexible grip material surrounding at least a portion of the nose portion.

7. (Currently amended) The control mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a layer of grip material surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which said electrical switch is disposed.

8. (Original) The control mechanism of claim 6 further comprising a layer of rubber surrounding the portion of the nose portion in which said switch is disposed.

9. (Previously presented) The control mechanism of claim 6 wherein said flexible grip material abuts said switch when said compressible material is compressed.

10. (Currently amended) Apparatus for selectively controlling power applied to and the operation of the motor of a rotary hand tool having a generally cylindrical housing that includes a generally tapered nose portion that has a gradually reduced circumference toward an end from which an output shaft extends, and a grip portion around which an operator wraps a hand during operation of the tool, said apparatus comprising:

electrical control circuitry for controlling power, including motor current that is applied to the motor, said electrical circuitry being a part of the tool and located entirely within the housing;

[[a]] an electrical switch having a switch button and containing at least a pair of electrical switch contacts that are selectively opened and closed responsive to actuation of said switch button, said electrical switch being operatively connected to said control circuitry to control the operation of the motor, including the application of motor current to the motor, said electrical switch being configured so that said motor current does not pass through the electrical switch contacts during operation of the motor, said electrical switch being a part of the tool and located substantially within the tapered nose portion thereof; and

a cavity disposed in the tapered nose portion of the tool that is configured to receive at least a portion of said electrical switch and permit actuation of said switch button.

11. (Previously presented) Apparatus as defined in claim 10 further comprising a layer of grip material surrounding at least a portion of the grip portion in which said electrical switch is located.

12. (Previously presented) Apparatus as defined in claim 10 wherein the outer surface of said switch button is generally coextensive with the outer surface of said nose portion.